

LBI announces LCBGP award to Washington Parish Government (June 14, 2012)

The Louisiana Division of Administration (DOA) has announced its Louisiana Communities Broadband Grant Program (LCBGP) award to Washington Parish Government (WPGOV) for its “Washington Parish Wireless Broadband Feasibility Study.”

The goal of this project is for the feasibility study to serve as either the foundation for encouraging private investment for wireless broadband infrastructure, the justification for a government subsidized solution or a combination of both. Specifically, the study will consist of four primary endeavors:

- Software-based RF Propagation Study will determine the configurations of radios to achieve the range, penetration ability and capacity to overcome the obstacles confronting radio transmission within Washington Parish.
- Verification of the RF Propagation Study will consist of testing actual access equipment installed in standard configurations in representative areas of Washington Parish.
- Proposed Infrastructure Design will use the findings from the RF Propagation Study and the Verification Study to determine the number of towers required to provide adequate coverage of Washington Parish, with the goal of reaching 98% of its population.
- Development of a 5-year Cash Flow Analysis, which will include the infrastructure investment, estimated adoption rates, recurring costs of running and maintaining the system and forecasted revenue.

LCBGP is a technical assistance program that is designed to fund broadband-related planning and demonstration projects among rural communities that are un-served or underserved by commercial broadband providers. LCBGP is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and requires a 20% project grantee match through cash and/or in-kind contributions.

“The 2012 Louisiana Broadband Access and Use Survey clearly shows that Louisiana Parish residents are eager to use broadband, if only they could gain access to it,” said Brad Smith, State Broadband Grant Program Analyst. “This grant will provide Washington Parish Government with a detailed design for a customized fixed wireless infrastructure strategy and we believe this is a perfect use of our broadband grant funding”.

This marks the eighth award made through the LCBGP, since the program’s inception late last year. LBI staff anticipates making several additional awards in the coming weeks and look forward to partnering with award recipients to the benefit of the citizens of the targeted communities.